



## **Evaluating Federal Research Programs: Research and the Government Performance and Results Act**

**Committee on Science, Engineering,  
and Public Policy**

**National Academy of Sciences-  
National Academy of Engineering-  
Institute of Medicine**



### **Who is COSEPUP?**

- **COSEPUP is a joint committee of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine**
- **COSEPUP Members are senior scientists and engineers who have worked in industry, government, and universities.**

## **COSEPUP Membership**

- **Phillip Griffiths, Chair**
- **Bruce Alberts**
- **Peter Diamond**
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- **Philip Majerus**
- **June Osborn**
- **Kenneth Shine**
- **Morris Tanenbaum**
- **William Julius Wilson**
- **William Wulf**

## **Charge to Committee**

- **Identify and Analyze the Most Effective Ways to Assess the Results of Research Consulting with Federal Agencies, Oversight Entities, Researchers, etc.**
- **Help the Federal Government Determine How Agencies can Better Incorporate Research Activities into their GPRA Plans**

## **Workshops**

- **Industry**
- **Strategic & Performance Plans**
- **Assessment Methodology**

## **Two Viewpoints in Workshops**

- **Possible to measure research, including basic research, annually & provide quantitative outcomes of both basic & applied research**
- **Given long-range nature of basic research, no sensible way to respond to GPRA**

## **COSEPUP Position**

- **Useful outcomes of basic research cannot be measured directly on an annual basis because inherently too unpredictable**
- **However, meaningful measures of performance of basic research are possible--quality, relevance, and leadership are good predictors of eventual usefulness and can be reported regularly**

## **Expert Review**

- **Quality-- Peer Review of Programs by Experts in Field**
- **Relevance-- Relevance of Research to Agency Mission by Potential Users & Experts in Related Fields**
- **Leadership--International Benchmarking by International and National Experts**

## **Human Resources**

- **Include goal of maintaining adequate human resources in fields critical to their missions in strategic & performance plans**
- **Make Human Resources part of Program Evaluation**

## **Coordination**

- **Establish formal process to identify and coordinate areas of research supported by multiple agencies**
- **Identify lead agency for each field that would be responsible for assuring coordination occurs**

## **Science and Engineering Community**

- **Should play an important role in GPRA implementation**
- **Become familiar with Agency Strategic & Performance Plans**

## **Conclusion**

- **GPRA provides an opportunity to ensure effective use of nation's resources**
- **Articulates to policymakers and public the rationale for and results of research**

## **Next Steps**

- **Meet with Federal Agency Research Leadership**
- **Workshops**
- **Suggestions?**

## **For More Information**

- **COSEPUP Website**  
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